

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7, and 10-22 are pending in the present application. Claim 21 is withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-5, 7, 10-20 and 22 are rejected. Claims 1, 20 and 22 are herein amended. No new matter has been presented.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-5, 7, 10-20 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 1152036 to Kanda et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,173,393 to Sezi et al. and U.S. Patent No. 5,981,147 to Hallock et al.

Applicant herein amends the claims to clarify the invention. Thereafter, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection because the claimed invention is neither taught nor suggested by the cited references, alone or in combination.

Claims 1, 20 and 22 are herein amended to clarify that the nonionic surfactant is at least one of polyoxyethylene monoalkyl ether compounds ~~and phenol ethoxylate-based compounds~~ and PC-6.

The claims clearly require that the nonionic surfactant is at least one of polyoxyethylene monoalkyl ether compounds and PC-6, a specific phenol ethoxylate-based compound. Neither alternative compound is taught or suggested by the cited references.

Therefore, because at least this limitation is not taught or suggested by the cited references, alone or in combination, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections are overcome.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

/Kenneth H. Salen/

Kenneth H. Salen
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 43,077
Telephone: (202) 822-1100
Facsimile: (202) 822-1111

KHS/nrp/ya